

News

from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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ICC to host workshops on future of deregulated electricity markets

The Illinois Commerce Commission today announced that it is planning a series of meetings and workshops to examine the future of the state's electric market and identify public policy issues surrounding deregulation of the electric industry in Illinois.

"This is the most crucial issue the ICC is likely to address in the next few years, and we have to resolve it in a way that serves the interests of consumers and promotes viability of the electric markets," said ICC Commissioner Erin O'Connell-Diaz.

O'Connell-Diaz has been asked by ICC Chairman Edward Hurley to lead the Commission's Post 2006 Initiative. The state's legislatively mandated transition period from a fully regulated electric market to a largely deregulated electric market concludes at the end of the year 2006.

O'Connell-Diaz intends to call a meeting of interested stakeholders--including electric utilities, consumer advocates, independent power producers, energy marketers and others--to identify all the issues that require resolution.

O'Connell-Diaz, a 13-year veteran of the ICC who was appointed by Gov. Blagojevich to serve on the Commission in April 2003, indicated the meetings will be used to develop a schedule of workshops designed to explore solutions to market structure challenges, and determine what regulatory or legislative changes may be needed to address the new marketplace in Illinois.

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